

THE SKETCH DESIGN COMPETITION

***RENOVATION OF THE HISTORIC BUILDING OF THE RIGA CIRCUS
AND DEVELOPMENT VISION FOR THE TERRITORY***

ID No. 2018/1

HELD BY THE STATE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY "RIGAS CIRKS"

THE MINUTES OF THE JURY

RIGA, 10 JUNE 2018

1. The Sketch Design Competition *The Renovation of the Historic Building of the Riga Circus and Development Vision for the Territory – hereinafter the Competition.*

The subject and aim of the Competition

The aim of the Competition is to obtain a high-quality architectural solution and a functionally well-developed and economically justified sketch design which would meet the requirements set out in the Brief and the Designing Programme for the Riga Circus.

The subject of the Competition is the construction idea for complex reconstruction and prospective development of the territory of the Riga Circus (hereinafter – the object of the Competition). The construction idea should include architectural and functional solutions for the renovation and expansion of the Riga Circus as well as master plan development proposals and landscaping solutions for the territory. The Sketch Design/idea will be used as a basis for elaboration of the construction design.

The prize money of the Competition is EUR 35,000.00 (thirty five thousand euro, 00 cents).

2. The Commissioner of the Competition

The Commissioner – SLLC “Rīgas cirks”, registration No. 40003027789, Legal address: Merķeļa iela 4, Riga, LV-1050, Telephone:

3. Composition of the Competition Jury

Chairperson of the Jury

Jānis Dripe, expert of the Ministry of Culture, architect, member of the LAA

Deputy Chairperson of the Jury

Ināra Kehre, Board Member of SLLC “Rīgas cirks”

Members of the Jury:

Juris Dambis, architect, head of the SIHP, member of the LAA,

Agrita Maderniece, architect, Deputy Head of the Division of Riga City Cultural Heritage Protection of the Architecture Department at the Riga City Construction Board,

Aigars Kušķis, architect, expert in matters related to management planning of the UNESCO World Heritage of the Historic Centre of Riga, of the Urban Development Division of the City Development Department of the Riga City Council,

Mārtiņš Ķibers, representative of SLLC “Rīgas cirks”,

Toms Kokins, architect, member of the LAA,

Yohann Floch, foreign circus specialist (France),

Professor Jo Coenen, architect, urban planner (Netherlands)

Lionel Lejeune, foreign circus specialist, lecturer (Finland).

Secretary-in-Charge of the Jury:

Dace Kalvāne, architect

4. General conclusions and recommendations of the Jury

The Jury appreciates the fact that 20 entries were submitted to the Competition with the site located in the historic centre of Riga, a complex designing programme and high qualification criteria. The Jury admits that the submitted entries contain several interesting ideas, yet there is not a single entry which would fulfil all the tasks defined in the Designing Programme. Taking into account the site of the Competition, its specific nature and complexity, the Technical Committee carried out very serious

analytical work and examination, focusing on the conformity/non-conformity of each submitted sketch design to the Competition Brief and specific technical requirements (Appendices 1-4)

The Jury work was very intense, evaluating the entries submitted to the Competition. The Jury evaluated the projects against the criteria defined in the Competition Brief, taking into account the renovation concept of the historic building of the Riga Circus, the purpose of use, representativeness, as well as functionality, conformity of architectural solutions to the scale of the urban environment of the RHC and the concept of the prospective development of the competition territory. Particular attention was paid to the functional solution and the visual image of the building in the historic centre of Riga. The Jury admitted that several entries with architecturally attractive solutions failed to offer good functional solutions, and vice versa, that proposals offering the best functional solutions failed to provide high-quality architecture which is essential for the historic centre of Riga and the surrounding urban environment.

As a result of the competition, high-quality solutions have been obtained. Continuing their detailed elaboration and implementation the SLLL "Rīgas cirks" will acquire an optimal proposal for the renovation of the historic building of the Riga circus as well as the new building ("black box") and an improved public open space in the territory of the Riga Circus.

The Jury underlines that the authors of the proposal that will be further developed should take into account the recommendations of the Jury.

5. EVALUATION OF THE SKETCH DESIGN COMPETITION

Before the Jury set to work, the submitted entries were evaluated by a professional Technical Committee. Combining opinions of the experts from the Technical Committee and the members of the Jury about the Competition, it should be noted that the quality of the submitted entries varies. Examining and evaluating the Competition proposals, the Jury admits that the submitted entries contain several interesting ideas, yet there is not a single entry which would fulfil all the tasks defined in the Designing Programme or blend within the urban environment of the historic centre of Riga. Taking this into consideration, in accordance with Clauses 8.5 and 8.6 of the Competition Brief, slight changes were made to the distribution of the prize money. The members of the Jury give their individual assessments and recommendations for the further use of the Sketch Designs.

- The Jury takes into account the conclusions made by the experts of the Technical Committee regarding the compliance of the entries with the Competition Brief and the Designing Programme.
- The Jury examines and evaluates the non-compliances found by the experts of the Technical Committee of each competition entry.
- Regardless of the conclusion made by the experts of the Technical Committee, the Jury reserves the right to award incentive prizes to individual proposals.
- The Jury gives recommendations to the Commissioner, suggesting solutions aimed at specific functional zoning aspects and architectural quality.

6. RESULTS OF THE SKETCH DESIGN COMPETITION

6.1. Decision of the Jury of the Sketch Design Competition

The Jury filled in the tables of individual assessments according to the criteria set out in Clause 7.5 of the Competition Brief, which are summarised in the table of the overall assessment of the competition criteria (see 10.1.).

In the overall assessment, the highest score received the entry with the motto NSRD2018 – 955 or the average 86.82;

then the rest of the entries follow:

AKRC2018	– 939 points or the average 85.36,
CRKS2018	– 888 points or the average 80.73,
AAAA0009	– 877 points or the average 79.73,
FREE1234	– 818 points or the average 74.36,

VFQD1372	– 797 points or the average 72.45,
IIII1111	– 760 points or the average 69.09,
LIDO1001	– 746 points or the average 67.82,
CHNP9959	– 643 points or the average 58.45,
CLDG0618	– 631 points or the average 57.36,
MA6111EC	– 627 points or the average 57.00,
ROZA4000	– 578 points or the average 52.55,
QPDB1961	– 572 points or the average 52.00,
CIRQ0165	– 549 points or the average 49.91,
VIVA1618	– 545 points or the average 49.55,
U2N856	– 543 points or the average 49.36,
ŅŠĻŪ6528	– 525 points or the average 47.73,
CIRX1314	– 506 points or the average 46.00,
RING8881	– 496 points or the average 45.09,
KBMM3807	– 488 points or the average 44.36.

Considering the fact that there were many interesting ideas in the submitted entries, yet none of the entries had fulfilled all the tasks defined in the Designing Programme, the Jury unanimously decided not to award first prize.

6.2. The Jury's conclusion on the prize-winners and distribution of awards

Given the total score and the minimum difference between the two proposals, Chairperson of the Jury suggests that the members of the Jury should vote for awarding second prize to two entries with the mottoes NSRD2018 and AKRC2018. The Jury members unanimously voted for awarding a shared second prize to the entries with the mottoes NSRD2018 and AKRC2018.

Given the total score and the minimum difference between the next two proposals, Chairperson of the Jury suggests that the members of the Jury should vote for awarding a shared third prize to two entries with the mottoes CRKS2018 and AAAA0009. The Jury members unanimously voted for awarding a shared third prize to the entries with the mottoes CRKS2018 and AAAA0009.

The Jury decides to give four incentive prizes to the entries with the mottoes FREE1234, VFQD1372, IIII1111 and LIDO1001.

On 10 June 2018, the evaluation of the entries submitted to the Sketch Design Competition *The Renovation of the Historic Building of the Riga Circus and Development Vision for the Territory* was completed and the Jury's conclusion was prepared in accordance with Paragraph 212 of the third chapter of the Cabinet Regulation No. 107 of 28 February 2017.

The Jury decided to award:

- a shared second prize and EUR 9000 (nine thousand euros) each to the entries with the mottoes NSRD2018 and AKRC2018;
- a shared third prize and EUR 6500 (six thousand five hundred euros) each to the entries with the mottoes CRKS2018 and AAAA0009;
- incentive prizes and EUR 1000 (one thousand euros) each to the entries with the mottoes FREE1234, VFQD1372, IIII1111 and LIDO1001.

7. Announcement of results and disclosure of mottoes

The open meeting for disclosure of mottoes and announcement of the results will be held at the Drawing Room of the Faculty of Architecture, RTU, Ķīpsalas iela 6, on 11 June 2018, at 1 p.m.

8. Information about the participants of the Sketch Design Competition

MOTTO	PRIZE	AUTHORS
NSRD2018	Second prize	ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE NRJA (Uldis Lukševics, Ivars Veinbergs, Zigmārs Jauja, Ilze Mekša, Elīna Lībiete, Ieva Lāce – Lukševica, Inga Dubinska) (Reg.nr.40003723891, Miesnieku iela 12, Rīga, LV1050)
AKRC2018	Second prize	Association: - SIA "TRĪS ARHITEKTŪRA" (Zane Kalniņa) (Reg.No.40203145769, Jāņa Čakstes prospekts 11, Ogre, Ogre area, LV5001) - SIA "SUDRABA ARHITEKTŪRA" (Reinis Liepiņš) (Reg.No.40003714988, Jāņa iela 3-16, Rīga, LV1050)
CRKS2018	Third prize	Association: - ARCHITECT'S BRIGITAS BULAS BIROJS (SIA "BRIGITA BULA") (Reg.No.40103627691, Ģertrūdes iela 6-1, Rīga, LV1010) - VENTURA TRINDADE ARQUITECTOS, IDA (João Maria Ventura Trindade) (Nif/Fiscal no. 507277295, Rua Rodrigues Sampaio, 152, 1150-282 Lisboa, Portugal)
AAAA0009	Third prize	SIA "SINTIJA VAIVADE_ARHITEKTE" (Sintija Vaivade) (Reg.nr.40003650668, Krišjāņa Valdemāra iela 37a-26, Rīga, LV1010)
IIII1111	Incentive prize	Association: - SIA "MAILĪTIS A.I.I.M" (Austriš Mailītis) (Reg.No.40003990574, Stokholmas iela 59, Rīga, LV1014) - SIA "SUDRABA ARHITEKTŪRA" (Reinis Liepiņš) (Reg.No.40003714988, Jāņa iela 3-16, Rīga, LV1050)
VFQD1372	Incentive prize	ADRIAN PHIFFER ORDINUL ARCHITETILOR DIN ROMANIA #4931 (31 Atlantic Ave, Toronto, ON, M6K 3E7, Canada)
FREE1234	Incentive prize	Association: - SIA "MADE ARHITEKTI" (Miķelis Putrāms) (Reg.No.40003897092, Šarlotes iela 18a, Rīga, LV1001) - SIA "GAISS ARHITEKTI" (Kārlis Melzobs) (Reg.No.40103707465, Miera iela 33-3, Rīga, LV1001)
LIDO1001	Incentive prize	Association: - SIA "LAAGA" (Madara Gibze, Paulis Gibze) (Reg.No.40203101285, Zentenes iela 2-17, Rīga, LV1069) - Independent architects: Helvijs Savickis, Manuel Bonell, Ilva Cīrule, Uldis Āmars, Elza Rone - SIA "AINAVU PROJEKTĒŠANAS BIROJS ALPS" (Māris Bušs, Marc Geldof, Helena Gūtmane, Eva Plaude, Ilze Rukšāne) (Reg.No.40003771232, Cēsu iela 3k-3-10, Rīga, LV1012) - Artist Kristians Mednis - Vizual identity SIA "McCann Rīga" (Ljeta Putāne, Gatis Zēbergs) (Reg.No.50003257541, Tērbatas iela 30, Rīga, LV1011) - Building constructions SIA "ARENDO" (Matīss Apsītis) (Reg.No.40003961359, Grāvju iela 45, Jūrmala, LV2007) - SIA "LINIA" (Arvīds Likops) (Reg.No.40003967686, "Ezervijas", Baltezers, Ādažu novads, LV2164)

9. Verification of entrants' compliance with the qualification requirements

According to Clause 9.4. of the Competition Brief, the Procurement Commission of the SLLC "Rīgas cirks" verified the compliance of the award-winning entries of the Competition with the qualification requirements set out in Clause 12. of the Competition Brief. In accordance with the decision of the Procurement Commission (Appendix No. 11), the Jury's decision on the competition results and the distribution of awards was not changed.

10. A summary of the Jury's evaluations and recommendations:

10.1. Compilation of individual assessments according to the criteria of clause 7.5. of the Brief:

No.	MOTTO	BUILDINGS, FUNCTIONALITY SPATIAL SOLUTION				ENERGY EFFICIENCY SUSTAINABILITY		TRANSPORT ORGANISATION OF FLOWS		IMPROVEMENT	TOTAL
		RENOVATION CONCEPT OF THE HISTORIC BUILDING	FUNCTIONAL AND SPATIAL SOLUTION	THE NEW BUILDING IN THE EXISTING SCALE OF THE CITYSCAPE	NOVELTY, ORIGINALITY OF THE ARCHITECTURAL IDEA	USE OF ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY ENERGY RESOURCES	USE OF LOCAL BUILDING MATERIALS	USE OF THE EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE	ORGANISATION OF FLOWS IN THE COMPETITION TERRITORY		
Score		min 5 max 15	min 5 max 15	min 1 max 5	min 1 max 5	min 5 max 10	min 5 max 10	min 5 max 10	min 5 max 10	min 5 max 20	Max 100
1	VFQD1372	113 / 10,27	113 / 10,27	47 / 4,27	44 / 4,00	78 / 7,09	73 / 6,64	86 / 7,82	86 / 7,82	157 / 14,27	797 / 72,45
2	CIRQ0165	67 / 6,09	64 / 5,82	35 / 3,18	31 / 2,82	57 / 5,18	69 / 6,27	67 / 6,09	70 / 6,36	89 / 8,09	549 / 49,91
3	CRKS2018	142 / 12,91	139 / 12,64	44 / 4,00	43 / 3,91	92 / 8,36	77 / 7,00	91 / 8,27	99 / 9,00	161 / 14,64	888 / 80,73
4	AAAA0009	133 / 12,09	139 / 12,64	41 / 3,73	45 / 4,09	86 / 7,82	88 / 8,00	85 / 7,73	93 / 8,45	167 / 15,18	877 / 79,73
5	VIVA1618	74 / 6,73	79 / 7,18	30 / 2,73	32 / 2,91	57 / 5,18	65 / 5,91	62 / 5,64	66 / 6,00	80 / 7,27	545 / 49,55
6	CLDG0618	86 / 7,82	83 / 7,55	36 / 3,27	42 / 3,82	59 / 5,36	61 / 5,55	69 / 6,27	77 / 7,00	118 / 10,73	631 / 57,36
7	QPDB1961	85 / 7,73	76 / 6,91	37 / 3,36	33 / 3,00	57 / 5,18	62 / 5,64	68 / 6,18	70 / 6,36	84 / 7,64	572 / 52,00
8	CIRX1314	68 / 6,18	68 / 6,18	32 / 2,91	31 / 2,82	56 / 5,09	55 / 5,00	64 / 5,82	62 / 5,64	70 / 6,36	506 / 46,00
9	FREE1234	129 / 11,73	126 / 11,45	40 / 3,64	33 / 3,00	92 / 8,36	83 / 7,55	92 / 8,36	82 / 7,45	141 / 12,82	818 / 74,36

No.	MOTTO	BUILDINGS, FUNCTIONALITY SPATIAL SOLUTION				ENERGY EFFICIENCY SUSTAINABILITY		TRANSPORT ORGANISATION OF FLOWS		IMPROVEMENT	TOTAL
		RENOVATION CONCEPT OF THE HISTORIC BUILDING	FUNCTIONAL AND SPATIAL SOLUTION	THE NEW BUILDING IN THE EXISTING SCALE OF THE CITYSCAPE	NOVELTY, ORIGINALITY OF THE ARCHITECTURAL IDEA	USE OF ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY ENERGY RESOURCES	USE OF LOCAL BUILDING MATERIALS	USE OF THE EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE	ORGANISATION OF FLOWS IN THE COMPETITION TERRITORY		
Score		min 5 max 15	min 5 max15	min 1 max5	min1 max 5	min 5 max 10	min 5 max 10	min 5 max 10	min 5 max 10	min 5 max 20	Max 100
10	ŅŠĻŪ6528	73 / 6,64	72 / 6,55	28 / 2,55	26 / 2,36	55 / 5,00	64 / 5,82	64 / 5,82	62 / 5,64	81 / 7,36	525 / 47,73
11	CHNP9959	85 / 7,73	89 / 8,09	39 / 3,55	37 / 3,36	63 / 5,73	71 / 6,45	68 / 6,18	80 / 7,27	111 / 10,09	643 / 58,45
12	IIII1111	102 / 9,27	107 / 9,73	47 / 4,27	43 / 3,91	80 / 7,27	72 / 6,55	74 / 6,73	90 / 8,18	145 / 13,18	760 / 69,09
13	ROZA4000	82 / 7,45	80 / 7,27	33 / 3,00	35 / 3,18	60 / 5,45	60 / 5,45	64 / 5,82	75 / 6,82	89 / 8,09	578 / 52,55
14	AKRC2018	138 / 12,55	145 / 13,18	53 / 4,82	50 / 4,55	89 / 8,09	85 / 7,73	92 / 8,36	102 / 9,27	185 / 16,82	939 / 85,36
15	U2N856	74 / 6,73	69 / 6,27	30 / 2,73	39 / 3,55	58 / 5,27	59 / 5,36	70 / 6,36	60 / 5,45	84 / 7,64	543 / 49,36
16	LIDO1001	99 / 9,00	97 / 8,82	43 / 3,91	43 / 3,91	72 / 6,55	80 / 7,27	80 / 7,27	95 / 8,64	137 / 12,45	746 / 67,82
17	MA6111EC	81 / 7,36	87 / 7,91	38 / 3,45	37 / 3,36	68 / 6,18	67 / 6,09	65 / 5,91	76 / 6,91	108 / 9,82	627 / 57,00
18	KBMM3807	66 / 6,00	73 / 6,64	23 / 2,09	24 / 2,18	55 / 5,00	55 / 5,00	65 / 5,91	58 / 5,27	69 / 6,27	488 / 44,36
19	RING8881	66 / 6,00	69 / 6,27	18 / 1,64	23 / 2,09	57 / 5,18	57 / 5,18	57 / 5,18	64 / 5,82	85 / 7,73	496 / 45,09
20	NSRD2018	141 / 12,82	135 /12,27	54 / 4,91	53 / 4,82	91 / 8,27	95 / 8,64	100 / 9,09	108 / 9,82	178 / 16,18	955 / 86,82

10.2. Compilation of individual assessments of the Jury

The Jury shall evaluate the submitted Proposals in accordance with the following criteria:

- The concept of the renovation of the historical building of the Riga Circus, the quality of the new building volume architectural solution, expressiveness of facades, the originality of the

- idea, the functional and spatial layout, accessibility of the environment, the innovative solutions,
- Energy efficiency and sustainable solutions of the Competition object,
 - Functional zoning of the competition and study site, organisation of transport and pedestrian flows,
 - A landscaping concept for the territory of the Competition object.

As regards urban planning, the territory of the Riga Circus is a complex site containing significant buildings of cultural heritage value. Its spatial composition is not sufficiently and visually clear, the functional layout is complicated. Historic buildings appear to be poorly maintained and they lack the visual image and spatial elegance necessary for a cultural function.

During the assessment it was important to evaluate the architectural quality of the construction proposal, its harmonious blending within the cityscape and appropriateness to the scale of the surrounding buildings, historically developed principles of the composition of the spatial environment, preservation of the historical substance of the buildings, authenticity of the values, and ascertain that the proposal as a result of its implementation would be an event in architecture and would stand out as a new addition to modern buildings of cultural establishments.

The competition consisted of two main parts: the design of the building and the urban context. The Jury was pleasantly surprised at the serious attitude and enthusiasm of the participants, which is evident in the graphical materials presented. In general, participants have a very good understanding of the significance of cultural heritage.

The Jury admits that modesty and simplicity of the two best proposals, their logical and systematic approach to the development vision of the circus complex in future ensure that the works will be carried out diligently and meticulously gradually implementing the project in several construction stages. The authors of the project want to analyse and thoroughly explore how to reuse the existing materials as efficiently as possible. None of the teams regards this work as tedious. They see it as a possibility to make the new building even more intelligent and more efficient. The Jury believes that this is the only correct attitude and approach as it allows fully using the potential of the Riga Circus and developing a modern and innovative design.

10.2.1. Entry with the motto VFQD1372 (in the order of submission)

ARCHITECTURAL SOLUTION IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT OF THE RHC

This is one of the most conceptual and boldest competition entries as regards its architectural philosophy and presentation. The architectural vocabulary corresponds to the function of the building and the visual and artistic image of a circus. It is a very interesting and innovative idea to use a façade (screen) fold as a recurring motif. It is also proposed to tone down firewalls of the building in Merķeļa iela with delicate architectural elements. The object is designed as a scenic solution for the whole complex, using the image of a theatre or a circus as a basis of the architectural and spatial organisation, perhaps, slightly overusing this concept. Architecturally the new buildings in Merķeļa and A.Kalniņa Streets clearly reflect the function of the building (recognizable principles) and completely differ from the surrounding houses, offering something special for this place and the city. A curtain is designed around the dome as a background for a rooftop performance showing the circus cityscape towards both streets. The identity of the building could be an original and aesthetic solution in the urban context, displaying artistic and poetic thinking.

In spite of the original and architecturally outstanding proposal, the permitted height of the main cornice of 15 m is exceeded in A.Kalniņa iela (the width of a street between street lines), i.e. the

building above 15 m does not fit within the space formed by a 45-degree angle and the maximum building height of 24 m is also exceeded. The proposed solution does not meet the parameters of the spatial plan and arrangement of buildings as it disregards the courtyards located on the neighbouring plots of land, namely, there is no courtyard facing another courtyard on the neighbouring plot of land. The scale and image of the new building in A.Kalniņa iela contradicts the surrounding historic houses, it has no real façade, rather a frame for a show – a stage with a curtain facing the street.

FUNCTIONS AND LAYOUT, ORGANISATION OF FLOWS, LANDSCAPING AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE TERRITORY

In general, the circus function is addressed on a good level; the curtains enclosing the dome are also designed as functional spaces. Scenographic thinking can be felt in each room and place, creating a foreground and a background for a show. On the ground-floor level the circus arena and the dome are preserved, a part of the former horse stables is retained, while the arena on the 1st-floor level and everything else are rebuilt. The training hall of the circle can establish a link between traditional and modern circus. The whole complex is functional and aesthetically also meets the requirements of the circus. A historic plan is shown next to the designed floor to demonstrate the changes more clearly. Good solutions are offered for using environmentally-friendly, energy-intensive, local and regional building and finish materials.

The proposed solution has made use of the existing infrastructure, offering rational parking solutions, a successful organisation of pedestrian and cyclist flows in the territory of the competition object, but not creating a pedestrian arcade through the city block as indicated in the Designing Programme of the competition. It is a fantastic idea to use the roof of the complex as a second-level public or semi-public open space, providing new vantage points and views across the city. An outdoor space is like an indoor space – landscaping elements on the ground and at the open-air stage around the dome on the roof of the circus building.

The attractive and original way of graphic presentation is considered to be a special value of this project and is particularly noteworthy. Although the project is elaborated to a certain degree (10 pages), it does not completely address the questions of functions and layout. Explanations are good and captivating, while the level of detailing varies, and the inadequate quality of presentation and elaboration of the architectural idea does not allow assessing the functionality of the solution and possibilities of its implementation.

NOVELTY

A truly brave project corresponding to the circus function and paying homage to the circus world. An original, expressive and architecturally outstanding proposal with an innovative functional solution and architectural idea, reflecting the spirit of the circus.

JURY'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSIONER

The object is designed as a scenic solution for the whole complex, using the image of a theatre or a circus as a basis of the architectural and spatial organisation. The idea of creating a roof terrace above the historic wing around the arena dome is a noteworthy proposal allowing compensating for limited development options of the low-rise part of the building in Merķeļa iela and the first third of the territory from the street front. During the elaboration of the idea, aspects of the scale and architectural expression of the buildings could be addressed, which do not comply with the building regulations in the historic centre of Riga regarding the "rights" of the neighbouring plots. The entry deserves a prize for its creativity and originality in the creation of a circus image.

10.2.2. Entry with the motto CIRQ0165

ARCHITECTURAL SOLUTION IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT THE OF RHC

A transparent glazed band supplements the façade in Merķeļa iela, displaying the new Level 3 and at the same time toning down the traditional accent of the Riga Circus, i.e. its dome, while not solving the problem of the exposed firewalls. The façade in A.Kalniņa iela displays the same architectural idiom as the one in Merķeļa iela with large glass structures containing training halls of the circus school whose function is “open” towards the street. Functionally, the use of glazing for the restaurant facing Merķeļa iela is a logical solution, though this addition to the historic façade itself is disputable. The restoration concept of the historic building and architectural means of expression are not appropriate for the purpose and representativeness of the new architectural solutions. The elegant hand-drawn elevation drawings and visualisations do not provide sufficient information about the structural and finish solutions of the buildings, there are no height marks on the elevations and sections, and no dimensions are shown in the plans.

Despite the very profoundly studied history of the theatre and circus development in the world, the elaborated project is sooner a draft or a sketch and does not provide answers to all questions in the Designing Programme of the competition. Concrete measures for the preservation of the cultural heritage are not reflected and described in detail. There is no information about the structural solution of the building. It is not clear whether the construction of the large-scale glass building is technically and economically feasible. The proposed solution does not correspond to the spatial plan as it does not respect the location of the courtyards on the neighbouring plots of land, i.e. no courtyard is facing another courtyard on the adjoining plot of land.

FUNCTIONS AND LAYOUT, ORGANISATION OF FLOWS, LANDSCAPING AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE TERRITORY

The competition proposal offers a good solution for placement of training halls, yet the legend of rooms is illegible, the function can be guessed from the layout. It is unclear whether the functional and spatial layout of the building includes all the spaces required in the Designing Programme. Historic buildings have not been preserved and no use has been found for them. The project has no solutions for the delivery zone or a thoroughfare running through the city block: the public open space is accessible from A.Kalniņa iela but offers no real functions. There is no solution for organisation of pedestrian and cyclist flows in the competition territory between both streets, the existing infrastructure has not been used. There are no solutions for using environmentally-friendly, energy-intensive, local and regional building and finish materials.

NOVELTY

The proposal is not too original, an average novelty of the functional solution and architectural idea.

JURY'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSIONER

In comparison with other competition entries, this proposal cannot be used for the further development of the complex.

10.2.3. Entry with the motto CRKS2018

ARCHITECTURAL SOLUTION IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT OF THE RHC

A convincing and professional proposal with a high level of detail and clear style. The proposed architectural image of the circus complex facing Merķeļa iela, the atmosphere and the conceptual

attitude towards the particular task seem appropriate for the context of the historic centre of Riga and the new philosophy of the Riga Circus. The proposal offers a carefully elaborated and well developed architectural image of the “golden dome within a glass frame”, with a pleasant and appealing graphical part and views. The reconstructed wing of the historic building of the Riga Circus with its golden dome above the arena dominates the façade in Merķeļa iela. The historic façade in Merķeļa iela is not preserved and restored. It is intended to modify it in order to improve the proportions of the windows/façade openings, combining the openings of the ground floor and the 1st floor, which is a disputable, but perhaps a reasonable solution. Materials of high aesthetic quality are chosen for both historic and new buildings. The complex has a good overall composition with a potential of internal scenography.

The monumental façade in A.Kalniņa iela conveys the image of a public building, yet the solution is too disruptive for the historic streetscape. The façade in A.Kalniņa iela is modern and active, with a smart solution for massing in the upper part, thus this particular proposal complies with the existing regulations. However, there are questions about the height of the façade and its suitability for A.Kalniņa iela, taking into account the requirements of building regulations. The link with neighbouring territories in the city has been addressed, pedestrian flows and logistics have been organised appropriately. There is too little information about the façade solution, incl. about the choice of materials. The visualisation shows only one angle in a small scale. The interesting solution of the façade in A. Kalniņa iela could have been shown more convincingly graphically.

The visual link of the “black box” hall with A.Kalniņa iela and the inner courtyard gives a unique character to the public open space. The entrance portal of the arcade, rising 2-3 storeys high in A.Kalniņa iela, clearly bespeaks a public function of special nature. Although the inner courtyard between the “black box” and the restaurant is clearly defined and has a human scale, the area provided for the public open space of the arcade is quite small. The question arises whether a corridor-like atmosphere does not form in the part of the arcade between the entrance at Merķeļa iela and the inner courtyard where the organisation of flows is limited and prevents creating of an optimal micro-life of the courtyard with plants and greenery (assuming that the open-air lobby will be open for a fairly short time over a period of 12 months). It is desirable for the lobby to be open as long as possible providing shelter also in bad weather conditions. The courtyard façade has an inappropriate image and dimensions – the historic substance is not taken into account, the space within the city block is modern, sterile, transparent – the historic identity of the circus is disregarded.

FUNCTIONS AND LAYOUT, ORGANISATION OF FLOWS, LANDSCAPING AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE TERRITORY

The competition object and the study area have been planned, making use of the existing infrastructure with an easy access for lorries and trucks and good parking solutions. It is a good idea to rearrange traffic and parking spaces in Merķeļa iela carrying out minimal but significant measures. The change of surface in separate lanes to distinguish between defined traffic flows in lanes, arrangement of parking spaces on the opposite side of the street on the pedestrian pavement (which is not much used), new bicycle stands and location of public transport provide a much clearer and freer organisation of movements. *Extension of the carriageway in Merķeļa iela (which is quite wide already) at the expense of the pedestrian pavement will further degrade the street space, increase air and noise pollution and contradicts the principles of sustainable development of the urban environment.*

Commendable is the authors' idea to create a visual and functional link between the public open space and the complex of the Riga Circus both in everyday life and through organisation of various performances. The street front along Merķeļa iela is used fully providing public spaces and entrances. The clear functional division of the buildings makes the navigation in the arcade easy and convenient.

The aesthetic and high-quality changes in the structure of the street façade in Merķeļa iela allow merging the indoor and outdoor spaces, what indicates the quality of the public open space. A spatial structure, flows and hierarchy of the arcade and inner courtyards are clearly defined as an element enhancing the atmosphere of the inner courtyards of the historic centre of Riga. In the territory of the competition object there is an excellent organisation of pedestrian and cyclist flows, establishing a communicating arcade (through the space) to be continuing up to the Bergs Bazaar. The arcade in the south of the circus complex opens to nice views, but it can only be created by demolishing several historic structures (e.g. stables, etc.), which can be regarded as a result “obtained too easily” during the research for the project. The use of the historic substance outside the main building of the circus is not considered to be a value diminishing the individuality of the premises and the specific *genus loci*. The option that different spaces can be used from the inside and the outside make the complex functional and diverse.

The use of complicated and expensive equipment and the right choice of materials allow significantly transforming the spectator stands in the main arena. The range of possible events and the number of configurations of the hall have been increased, creating a modular arrangement of the arena with lifting floor platforms and a system of folding and changeable chairs. Opening the wall on the ground floor, when the seats are assembled and submerged, it is possible to organise large-scale events allowing the public to move freely through all circus premises. Visitor flows seem to be well organised, but the entrance nodes need some improvement (access to galleries, the small garden, etc.). The management of the unbuilt areas (noise and daylight) may turn out to be difficult in future.

The original design by J.F. Baumanis is restored in the circus arena: a circular passageway is demolished, 4 original balconies are restored inserting a folding wall around them, thus increasing the number of spectator seats and opening the unique metal structure to the view. By demolishing the perimeter gallery around the circus ring, an additional space for different types of uses of the arena is obtained, yet the historic layout is not respected and there may be some acoustic problems in the 1st-floor gallery. The daylight coming into the arena and the perimeter glazing in the dome give additional transparency. There is a good seating system, but noise can cause problems when all walls are pulled down. The transformation of the arena allows holding closed and dark as well as open and naturally lit events with the daylight coming from the glass roof. Transparency and lightness have replaced the twilight atmosphere, creating a feeling that is much closer to that in a traditional light circus tent.

The roof of the arena around the dome accommodates a public function (a terrace, a café, an exhibition hall), a view to the arena and the urban environment. An outdoor “black box” is created on the arena roof by attaching metal platforms and stairs to the firewalls of the adjacent buildings. Glass walls of the “black box” in the street façade may cause problems. On special occasions, circus acrobats can demonstrate their shows on ropes above the dome. The roof scenery with the improvement elements created around the arena is a mesmerising, intelligent and bold way how to optimize the space.

The project provides a good analysis and a reference to the world practice. The design stands out with a very logical structure, foreseeing implementation in stages, appropriate orientation to the cardinal points, scale and sequence of vacant and built-up spaces. This project clearly demonstrates the benefits of demolishing of certain structures as a sense of spaciousness and transparency is acquired. This transparency and open views inside the building are an attractive solution in such a densely built-up urban environment. This competition entry offers transparency of various spaces in order to show the circus processes to visitors and display the structure of the building complex in order to accentuate the historic value of the main arena. The transparency of the inner block is achieved in the foyer of a double height. All halls can be used both from the inside and the outside. It is an interesting suggestion

to expose the training hall with its spacious windows towards A.Kalniņa iela at the ground level. Good solutions for the transformation of the arena, stage, halls and spectators seats. The location of functions in the building is also good. The delivery zone is particularly well organised and the location of a bar under the training hall is excellent. The residences the construction of which is planned as part of the second stage top the roof nicely and fit well into the roofscape, the same way as the administration offices that are envisaged as part of the third construction stage. It is questionable whether the transparent, closed façade is the right solution and corresponds to the circus identity. Classrooms/training rooms are inappropriately located in the basement and the height of their ceilings is problematic, which is not technically and economically justified. There is an open space intended for children and families next to the conservatory, but it can be difficult to maintain it on a daily basis. There is an overall feeling that there are many open spaces, while their functional use is limited. Outdoor terraces and a winter garden are nice additions, yet the courtyard seems to be not big enough. The location of a restaurant in the middle of the city block may be inconvenient for visitors and may cause problems to its operation in future. A visually impressive and well-staged use of public spaces, which is linked to the functions of the circus complex, including exposition of training and education trying to make them more visible and open to visitors. This may cause problems to the operation of the circus and be disruptive for the comfort and well-being of the staff and students/artists, however, as a concept it is worth considering and may be implemented at least partially. Although the explanatory note of the project includes a lot of historical references, there is a feeling that nothing much has been preserved from the historic buildings. Design elements and application have been found for the firewalls flanking the main building, the central part of the dome and glazing can be accessed.

NOVELTY

The location of both spaces between the three buildings creates an effect of lightness of the entire project. It is intended to rearrange traffic in Merķeļa iela, providing parking spaces and temporary taxi stops along the streetside.

JURY'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSIONER

The proposal can be further developed by working on technical aspects, e.g. operation, construction and costs. It is recommended to improve the technical systems, if this is possible, so that their solution will become slightly clearer. The "airy" solution of the historic dome of the arena, spaces above the roof and possibilities of use of the roof deserve attention.

There is a problem with "the identity" because the overall image of the new building does not resemble a circus at all. The issue of the circus identity must come to the forefront. The complex in its maximum programme may have been provided with "overly elitist" character that may prove to be too expensive to implement. The violation of the building regulations in A.Kalniņa iela needs to be taken into account and resolved, determining the possibilities of use of the two upper floors and evaluating their architectural and spatial solution. Several historic buildings, including former stables, are pulled down without justifying this decision. It is difficult to assess whether the delivery of the props required for performances will be simple, the lift and the slope need to be checked.

10.2.4. Entry with the motto AAAA0009

ARCHITECTURAL SOLUTION IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT OF THE RHC

A well thought-out approach to the urban environment with a good contextual analysis; the city block is open and approachable and a link is established with the adjacent blocks. Noteworthy is a conceptual solution for connection of the public open space in the south, placing a three-section

arcade (as a shopping gallery) between Merķeļa and A. Kalniņa Streets, along with a pergola, an open space next to the “black box” hall and a covered courtyard which are the leitmotifs of the proposal and enrich the overall urban situation. The circus dome dominates the cityscape and its significance is highlighted by the use of golden roofing material.

This proposal resonates with its high professionalism, detailed elements and a good overall sense of shapes and forms. The proposal is conceptually pure functionally and stylistically: in Merķeļa iela the historic building dominates with the restored façade, and the new building in A. Kalniņa iela is set within a perimeter block, with an elegant façade reflecting internationally approved aesthetics which respects cultural and historical values and is composed in such a way as to fully comply with the existing regulations regarding the permitted height. The new building appears to have high-quality finish and well-balanced architectural composition of the façade. The visual image is very modern designed in the style of industrial elegance which is the latest international fashion trend. While this proposal is stylistically pure, what is positive, looking at it from another angle, it might as well be a modern, expensive restaurant in New York. Doubts arise if the chosen brand-building elements and Latvian ornaments (irrelevant of how neat they are) will be stylistically coherent and compatible with the functions of the Riga Circus. It seems that the atmosphere created is not the right one for those visitors interested in circus. However, if particular architectural and design features are added, the façade in A. Kalniņa iela may turn out to be appropriate for the circus function.

The composition of the façade in Merķeļa iela is improved by restoring the historic (original) height of the façade designed by architect J. F. Baumanis. An intention to extend the public open space behind the wall of the historic building in the form of a covered gallery is original yet it is unclear/debatable what will be its function. Assuming that the entrance from the main courtyard is used on a daily basis, the problem is that this may become a dark outdoor space (because of limited daylight) without a meaning or function, or destinations (entrances, shop windows, etc.). A glass-covered shopping gallery does not appear to be required or necessary. Considering intensive pedestrian flow in Merķeļa iela, a question arises whether this proposal is not a lost opportunity to strengthen the link between the new circus and the society by means of architecture, thus attracting different groups of visitors. The entrance to the arcade facing A. Kalniņa iela as a deep, covered outdoor space with a relatively small height may come across as a murky space under a bridge emphasised by “blind” walls and dark corners at the “black box” hall and the delivery zone. In the central courtyard there is a large proportion of “blind” walls. The above-mentioned entrance as well as the courtyard fail to become a welcoming destination or a pleasant shortcut for pedestrians without strengthening the visual and functional links with the circus. Although the authors’ intention is to create an open and accessible circus complex for everyone, the selected means of architectural expression and solutions, and the atmosphere created speak of the desire to create an elitist environment that would be more appropriate for a supermarket or offices rather than embody the philosophy of modern circus. The sterile façade of the new building in A. Kalniņa iela is not typologically recognisable as a circus building. The circus image is not created and the identity of the modern/historic circus is not offered; the circus arcade leading past many closed walls is made of glass, it is visually sterile, and there is no lively image of a circus. Looking from the direction of A. Kalniņa iela, it is not clear where entrances to the main halls are. The new building has no courtyard facing another courtyard on the neighbouring plot of land.

FUNCTIONS AND LAYOUT, ORGANISATION OF FLOWS, LANDSCAPING AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE TERRITORY

Despite the fact that the façades of the complex display no obvious signs that it is possible for pedestrians to pass through the territory using the entire space within the city block, the central courtyard is designed as an accent of the inner block with a single entrance from the courtyard to the

public spaces, which provides functional clarity and simplifies the control procedure in three different areas of use. The entrance to the arena and the lobby of the “black box” hall from the courtyard is accentuated, there is a clear division and hierarchy of flows and entrances, attention has been paid to the aspects of accessibility of the environment. The main open space of the complex is a place where all flows, i.e. horizontal, vertical and the one coming from the entrance, will merge together. The functional solution of the project is clear, the movement inside the building is understandable and simple, but the different functions are very compressed in the space, especially in the critical nodes between the substantially different uses (the arena, new spaces in the courtyard, etc.). In terms of size, both spectator halls meet the circus needs and provide the required spaces. The circulation of visitors is clear, though, doubts arise whether the entrance node to both halls (the arena and the “black box” whose capacity is insufficient lacking 100 seats) and the staircase could fully accommodate visitor flows if several performances are held simultaneously. The backstage area is close to the halls what is good for artists. A good use of space for the “black box” hall, the circus school and the residences, but the entrance to the circus school is not practical for public use, and the cloakroom behind the stairs is also uncomfortable and not large enough. The pedestrian gallery and the entrances to the complex are rather narrow and may appear to be too cramped and create real congestions during the influx of visitors. The restaurant is located too far from the spectator halls.

One of the major shortcomings of the project is its disregard for the preservation of the historical substance in the new buildings, since this proposal wants to demolish everything but the arena. Indeed, it makes the layout more rational, but the presence of cultural heritage is lost. The benefit is a clear composition of 3 structures: the historic building of the Riga Circus and two buildings for residences and the Riga Circus School and the servicing functions of the historic building. Most of the historic buildings in the courtyards/at the back of the territory are demolished to make room for the new buildings and simplify the construction process. There is no convincing reason for demolition, since the new value does not bring greater spatial and functional benefits.

A car park for members of staff is located in the basement, but a bicycle stand – in the territory. The entrance for trucks and visitors is organised in the same place, noise and fumes may cause problems, since the access road for trucks is not sufficiently obscured from public view. The delivery zone is problematic because trucks cannot turn when delivering large props or stage equipment. A place for open-air cinema shows, performances, changeable installations and summer cafés is planned in the competition territory. The courtyard is landscaped and greened with plants in containers and green walls.

JURY'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSIONER

Although the proposal is elaborated very professionally and its quality is highly appreciated, several things will need to be changed to improve it. The architectural vocabulary is particularly important and it should be changed to make the whole building complex appear as a unified ensemble. A more detailed scheme of flows in the main building at all levels needs to be presented to see if the building will be functional. The size of both venues is good, but the identity created in the project is not particularly related to the image of the circus. In the new building, the reception should be relocated from the 2nd floor to the 1st one to optimally use this space. It is not clear if there is a separate access to the rooms of artists' residences and if there is a separate entrance even when the building is closed. Loading/unloading of props and access to the stage(s) and training rooms seem quite difficult. More detailed information is required about the slope of the delivery zone, the possibilities of lifting the props and moving them around, and about the transformation system of the seats/stands of the arena. It also needs to be ascertained if the restaurant in A.Kalniņa iela will attract potential tenants.

10.2.5. Entry with the motto VIVA1618

ARCHITECTURAL SOLUTION IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT OF THE RHC

A proposal well developed in detail offering active use (street markings, special crossings, an informative “lighthouse” in the Station Square, advertisement pylons on the pavement in Merķeļa iela, visual ads advertising the circus on the building) of the streets surrounding the city block of the Riga Circus, i.e. Merķeļa, Kr. Barona and A. Kalniņa Streets. A good idea, but the scale is somewhat exaggerated. The same can be said about the façade of the circus building in Merķeļa iela which is spatially and informatively saturated. The façade along Merķeļa iela visually corresponds to the image of a circus, but the new red/yellow vertical bands of glass on the 2nd floor level, omitting the firewalls, are two overwhelming for the image of the historic building. The new building visually fits within the streetscape of A.Kalniņa iela, respecting the division, details and rhythm of the existing façades, yet the solution is too monotonous and typologically does not reveal (semantically show) the function of the building. The closed “black box” wall without windows faces the street on the ground- and 1st-floor level. Visualisations show that the permitted height of the cornice at 15 m is not observed; the building “does not fit” within the space of a 45-degree angle forming above the permitted 15m of the cornice. There is no sense of scale in the overall project design solutions and detailing and its message is neither allusive nor informatively clear.

FUNCTIONS AND LAYOUT, ORGANISATION OF FLOWS, LANDSCAPING AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE TERRITORY

The analysis of historical material and the profound research (on 111 pages) deserve appreciation, yet the aesthetics of this project does not coincide with the idea of a modern circus. The historical heritage and its structure is preserved in the complex of the Riga Circus, by integrating it into the new layout of the historic building. Flows of spectators, artists/members of staff are separated, it is intended to have transformable stages and spectator seats. The flow of spectators between the two streets, along the southern border of the city block is organised logically, the same way as the deliveries and technical accesses from A. Kalniņa iela. The “black box” multifunctional hall is located at A. Kalniņa iela, however, there is no indication about it in the design of the façade. Good organisation of deliveries to the arena and the “black box”. A spacious open gallery running through several levels creates an open gallery around the dome tower above the arena. The authors have thought about the quality of sound and noise reduction (an acoustic calculation is enclosed). The arrangement of training halls on two underground floors (-10.10 m) is a technically complex and economically unfeasible solution, and it is not suitable for the circus function (spaces without natural daylight). In places no courtyard is planned opposite the neighbouring courtyard. Sections, plans and elevations here and there do not match each other. No functions of the circus centre are provided, many rooms have no functional application. Not all of the sections listed in the table of contents are reflected in the explanatory note.

NOVELTY

The street space (painting of pavement surfaces, advertisement pylons) is treated as the fifth façade, as a circus magnet attracting attention and “drawing into” the circus.

JURY’S RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSIONER

In comparison with other entries, this proposal cannot be used for further development of the circus complex without significant conceptual changes.

10.2.6. Entry with the motto CLDG0618

ARCHITECTURAL SOLUTION IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT OF THE RHC

The project is developed rather schematically – on 6 pages. The historical values of the old building of the Riga Circus are respected without offering its restoration concept and not intending to demolish the 2nd floor that was added to the building in the 1950s. A very compact overall massing, an interesting division of the façade along A.Kalniņa iela in two different parts where the concrete part creates something completely different – the cracked concrete plane has no artistic/informative message and the entrance to the block cannot be easily perceived. The main cornice in the façade of the new building towards A.Kalniņa iela exceeds 15m violating the regulations (the width of the street between street lines), and the building above the main cornice “does not fit” within the space formed by a 45-degree angle. It is a good solution to create an entrance to the courtyard for vehicles in the façade. The colours (pale, “dazzled” light shades) used in the visualisations of the façades prevent assessment of the façade solution of the new building and its blending within the streetscape. The visualisations fail to provide a general picture of the shape and functions of the complex, no visual image of the circus has been created. Elevations are shown as schemes. A glazed opening of the lobby of the main arena towards the inner courtyard is a good solution. The wall of the “black box”, which is designed as a projection screen of advertisements behind the circus dome, visually pollutes the urban environment with aggressive dazzling light and impedes the perception of the cultural and historical values. The façade towards A.Kalniņa iela does not correspond to the identity of the circus and the overall architectural solution creates an impression that the authors of this project will not be the actual cooperation partners for the further development of this project.

FUNCTIONS AND LAYOUT, ORGANISATION OF FLOWS, LANDSCAPING AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE TERRITORY

The proposed link (the arcade coincides with the delivery routes) between Merķeļa and A.Kalniņa Streets, running along the southern border of the inner block in the direction of A.Kalniņa iela, resembles a functional corridor rather than an attractive public open space. The organisation of pedestrian and cyclist flows in the territory of the competition object is rational. It is an interesting idea to build the entrance for vehicles through the courtyard façade. The idea about the car lift is also commendable. It is intended to have 5 car parks in the basement and 13 bicycle stands in the territory. However, the basement the height of which under new buildings is -3.45m, is not shown in the sections under the existing building. The delivery options to the arena and the “black box” are disputable. Functional zones are planned mechanically (but technically possible) – an X-shaped corridor provides the necessary links. The dimensions of the “black box” and the lobbies of the main arena are inadequate. Plans, sections and elevations are shown as schemes. It is written in the explanatory note that the existing arena has been preserved and that the horse stables have been partially retained. In general, it is very difficult to perceive the graphical presentation. The existing and planned structures are not distinguished; it is impossible to assess which cultural heritage values are preserved. The landscaping concept proposes to green the terrace, yet it fails to offer a concrete solution. The courtyard façade is not included in the landscaping concept. There is no courtyard facing the courtyard on the neighbouring plot of land. There are no solutions for using environmentally-friendly, energy-intensive, local and regional building and finish materials.

10.2.7. Entry with the mottoQPDB1961

ARCHITECTURAL SOLUTION IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT OF THE RHC

As regards the suggested changes to be made in the urban environment, this is one of the boldest proposals. The panoramic wheel/ring – a gallery around the historic dome and above the historic façade towards Merķeļa iela explicitly conveys the circus content and creates a new view on the city, dominating over the substance of the historic building. A spacious three-dimensional public open space towards A.Kalniņa iela is individually structured, although untypical for the historic centre of Riga in terms of spatial arrangement and the materials used, it is straightforwardly open to the urban environment and as such it is also functional. It is not intended to build a perimeter block in A.Kalniņa iela, instead the public open space is turned into a stage – “an indent” – an open-air stage that cannot be much used in Latvia’s climatic conditions. Although this is the only project that shows Merķeļa iela in winter, in its execution and approach the project is “southern”. The project concept contradicts the nature of the buildings of both restricting streets and is not convincing in the context of the RHC – the vertical lamellas of the “ring” of Merķeļa iela, the glazing facing the historic dome, the glass planes of the façade towards A.Kalniņa iela, the bright colours of the open-air performance area and of the climbing wall. The ring, i.e. the gallery around the circus dome, is an attractive architectural element referring to the circus function of the object, yet it does not fit within the particular historic urban environment, it is not technically and economically justified and impedes the perception of the cultural heritage value of the architectural monument. An in-depth analysis has been conducted which has not really been used in the competition entry. It is planned to preserve and rebuild the structures of cultural heritage value in the territory of the Riga Circus, but there is no description of the particular solution. The authors of the proposal do not intend to demolish the 2nd floor added in the 1950s. The aesthetics of the exposed firewalls on both streets has not been addressed on a new level.

FUNCTIONS AND LAYOUT, ORGANISATION OF FLOWS, LANDSCAPING AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE TERRITORY

A functionally interesting link between the main arena and the “black box” hall, as well as with the public area crossing the city block and the “carousel” above the dome. The authors propose 3 new functional axes for the restructuring of the historic city block – the public will have a clear spatial perception of one of them. The pedestrian arcade /circulation of visitors is organised through hinged doors, but in the public open space the flow meanders among the landscape and greenery elements. No parking spaces are planned in the area; no solutions for the delivery are included. It is planned to plant new trees in Merķeļa and A.Kalniņa Streets.

NOVELTY

The originality and novelty of the project are opposed to the functions of the modern circus centre.

JURY’S RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSIONER

Regardless of the boldness of this project, the architectural solution is not recommended for the further development of the Riga Circus project.

10.2.8. Entry with the mottoCIRX1314

ARCHITECTURAL SOLUTION IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT OF THE RHC

Highly appreciated is the intention to return to the original façade designed by J.F. Baumanis, respecting the massing of the historic building of the Riga Circus in Merķeļa iela. Nevertheless, the

proposed decorative solution and its tones, i.e. an unusually bright, contrasting painting on large planes – has no real justification. The new glazed parts on the 2nd floor flanking the dome in the façade in Merķeļa iela impede the perception of its cultural and historical values. The sign “RĪGAS CIRKUS” is put above the arcade and not placed at the centre. Overall the new building(s) fit well within the streetscape of A.Kalniņa iela, taking into account the defined vantage points and views. The façade has an interesting solution tectonically and colour-wise: the openness of the curved glass band at the ground level is a certain value, but the height of the cornice in A. Kalniņa iela exceeds 15m (the width of a street between street lines). The building above the main cornice “does not fit” within the space formed by a 45-degree angle. On the courtyard side, the new buildings must not exceed the height of 21.3m of the main cornice (except the wings abutting on the firewalls of adjacent buildings). The façade in A.Kalniņa iela does not convey the image of the circus typologically resembling an office building. The courtyard façade is not integrated into the streetscape and does not correspond to the identity of the circus centre; the 3-storey glass arcade looks like a modern building rather than a courtyard of a historic circus. Despite all this, there is a sufficient number of visualisations that give a complete picture of the object to be designed, the architectural idea contradicts the functional aspects of the project and implies that the authors of this proposal will not be the actual cooperation partners for the further development of this project.

FUNCTIONS AND LAYOUT, ORGANISATION OF FLOWS, LANDSCAPING AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE TERRITORY

The research carried out as part of the project and a solution for the visitor flows in the building complex are positive features of this project. The original circus building and horse stables are preserved and rebuilt. It is planned to dismantle the circular passageway of the ground floor of the arena, the walls of the balconies/galleries of the 1st floor, as well as the 2nd floor built in the 1950s above the old circus building. The pedestrian street is merged with the atrium, creating a very well-developed public open space. Although the pedestrian flow at the ground level resembles a corridor, it is made slightly attractive by extensive glazing towards the lobby of the main arena and the firewall greenery at the southern border. Technical explanations and references are provided for the finishing principles and design of details of the public open space making the project “readable”: the “green” wall, benches, plant containers. It is planned to have another entrance in the previously closed courtyard. The organisation of the cyclist flows implies a risk of increased speed. A car park for employees, coaches and trucks is planned in the closed courtyard, yet the solution for the delivery zone requires a more detailed elaboration (difficult access for trucks and an inadequate size of the lift).

The ceiling height in the training hall of the circus school does not comply with the requirements set out for the required spaces, the location of the rooms in the basement is inappropriate. The oval courtyard of the residencies building forms narrow angles in the corners of the rooms, which functionally is not a successful solution. There are no solutions for using environmentally-friendly, energy-intensive, local and regional building and finish materials.

10.2.9. Entry with the mottoFREE1234

ARCHITECTURAL SOLUTION IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT OF THE RHC

A brave and original project introducing new and fresh qualities to the public open space of the historic centre of Riga. Commendable is an intention to return to the original façade designed by J.F. Baumanis, visually accentuating the dome and concentrating new buildings at the back of the plot of land. The project has preserved the history of the circus and created a new circus image. The façade in Merķeļa iela has been fully used for public functions. Retaining the historic building of the Riga Circus as a

dominating element in the area of Merķeļa iela, the authors offer to open (through a large arch) and use as much as possible the courtyard facing A.Kalniņa iela what contradicts the current regulation and radically changes the character of A.Kalniņa iela. Currently, the circus complex has a distinctly representative façade in Merķeļa iela and the courtyard façade in A.Kalniņa iela which is more modest and surrounded by residential buildings. The new building is incongruous with the existing buildings, i.e. the difference of their heights is too big and they are too conspicuous in the streetscape.

The original concept of the public open space inspired by the origins of circus art manifests itself in a hybrid of a public garden/a courtyard/a gateway or the “Free Space” towards A. Kalniņa iela. The “Free Space” stands above the usual private/public boundaries and benevolently provokes the morphology of the historic centre of Riga and its everyday users. In general the strengths of this proposal are variability, flexibility, versatility, integration into a broader system of public open spaces and bringing the circus to the forefront for a wider public to see. The architectural vocabulary and proportions of the “Free Space” clearly bespeak a public function with an unusual content, its visual link with the rehearsal hall and a possibility to use it in all seasons make it peculiar. Halls, lobbies, courtyards, even A.Kalniņa iela in its entire width have been turned into a venue for performances, attracting and engaging the widest audience.

The height permitted by the building regulations is exceeded in A.Kalniņa iela, namely, the permitted height of the main cornice is 15 m, but the building above the main cornice does not fit within the space formed by a 45-degree angle. However, the reason for this is interesting and understandable, i.e. the newly created open space at the ground level which is covered by a structure resembling the shape of the historic circus dome is designed as a usable area under the interior spaces of the complex. The use of open concrete planes on the large surfaces of street façades is controversial and problematic considering the surrounding urban context, while the façades of the new “black box” hall do not convey the image of a cultural establishment.

FUNCTIONS AND LAYOUT, ORGANISATION OF FLOWS, LANDSCAPING AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE TERRITORY

A good functional and spatial layout of the building which provides all spaces required in the Designing Programme. Considerate reconstruction and rebuilding of the historical substance in order to provide a variety of functions: the main arena and the former horse stables are retained, a spacious area is created around the arena. Sound insulation may cause problems during the shows with the current solution for the spectator stands in the circus arena. The centre of creativity symbolically rests on the tradition – the free space created under the “black box” hall with a visual reference to the historic dome. Temporarily, movable containers in the side courtyards and circus caravans will be used for the residences, while the permanent rooms for residences will be built during the 5th construction stage.

The environment in the circus territory is fascinating and interesting. A walk-through city block (an unusual and interesting route of a pedestrian arcade) is arranged in the part closer to Kr. Barona iela. It differs from other projects, but it is functionally possible, also considering the connection with the Bergs Bazaar. This is the only entry that places the arcade in the northern part of the territory using the currently closed circus courtyard, at the same time providing a relatively large proportion of the public open space and employing the quality of the existing courtyard: sunlight, greenery and textures of historic buildings. A clear division of the public and the inner courtyard, the passageway in the middle resembles a corridor. A very good organisation of pedestrian and cyclist flows in the territory of the competition object, good parking solutions. Well-designed, landscaped courtyards where the pavement is used for the purpose of navigation leading to the central venue. There are solutions for using environmentally-friendly, energy-intensive, local and regional building and finish materials.

JURY'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSIONER

At the city level, the proposal should be evaluated for creation of a new type of public open spaces amid dense perimeter blocks of the city centre, with partially covered or open courtyards that are left open at the ground level and can be actively used for various activities together with public services (culture, cafés, exhibitions, etc.). The finish of firewalls of the adjacent buildings should be planned in Merķeļa iela.

10.2.10. Entry with the motto NŠĻŪ6528

ARCHITECTURAL SOLUTION IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT OF THE RHC

Commendable is the idea to return to the original façade designed by J.F. Baumanis. If the reconstructed cultural heritage elements dominate in Merķeļa iela with the roof and the semi-basement floor of the circus building painted conspicuously red, then the façade in A.Kalniņa iela is a spatial “surprise” in the urban environment. Although it complies with the building regulations, the character of the façade creates an impression of a completely different function in comparison with the surrounding cityscape. It is up to the authors to decide on the relevance of the expression to the circus function.

The authors of the proposal intend to restore the historic circus building with the arena and the dome with the lantern (that would be used as a circus lighthouse) and preserve the spectator box on the 1st floor. The new building in A.Kalniņa iela has an expressive circus image with an exotic façade and an innovative concept for the façade finish. The new building does not blend well among the surrounding historic houses. The entire firewalls of the adjoining buildings are not covered.

FUNCTIONS AND LAYOUT, ORGANISATION OF FLOWS, LANDSCAPING AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE TERRITORY

This project offers the most spacious publicly accessible space at the ground level of the Riga Circus complex: it covers the main arena and forms 3 courtyards, i.e. “the small”, “the green” and “the performance courtyard”. The vast areas under the buildings, the many entrances and pedestrian/cyclist flows combined with the traffic of delivery vehicles are the weaknesses of this proposal. The public open space is designed as an open territory with “the green” courtyard and “the green” walls, however, the design of landscaping elements and lights (parts below buildings) are not adequately addressed. There is no optimal solution for the organisation of pedestrian and cyclist flows in the competition territory. The authors of the project propose to change the direction of traffic movement in A.Kalniņa iela, so that visitors arriving in coaches and cars can easily alight and enter the circus territory – the spacious open-air performance courtyard. It is planned to have bicycle stands (30 pcs.), parking spaces for two electric cars, a truck and a coach in the territory of the Riga Circus. The delivery solution to both halls is not optimal. The functional solution of the circus building does not ensure a convenient circulation of visitors, no information is provided on the transformable stage in the arena. It is planned to have training halls in the basement, at -10.50m level, which is a technically complex and costly solution and does not meet the needs of the circus.

JURY'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSIONER

In comparison with other competition entries, this proposal cannot be used for further development of the circus complex.

10.2.11. Entry with the motto CHNP9959

ARCHITECTURAL SOLUTION IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT OF THE RHC

It is a good idea to return to the original façade designed by J.F. Baumanis. The historic building and the values of the façade in Merķeļa iela are respected: the street plane in Merķeļa and A.Kalniņa Streets is used as an additional element (functional extension) for circus functions and pedestrian comfort. Concrete solutions for the preservation of the cultural heritage have not been sufficiently reflected and described. The façade of the new building in A.Kalniņa iela typologically resembles a public building, but the architectural image of the complex is not modern and innovative. The height of the main cornice of the new building exceeds 15m in A.Kalniņa iela (the width of a street between street lines), the new building above the main cornice (15 m) “does not fit” within the space formed by a 45-degree angle. The façade in A.Kalniņa iela does not correspond to the circus identity and the overall architectural solution creates an impression that the authors of this project will not be the actual cooperation partners for the further development of this project.

FUNCTIONS AND LAYOUT, ORGANISATION OF FLOWS, LANDSCAPING AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE TERRITORY

A detailed solution has been offered for the streets surrounding the circus territory suggesting changes in traffic lanes and pavements, proposing pedestrian crossings, additional greenery with recreational areas, cyclist lanes, bicycle stands, short-term stops allowing passengers to get on and get off. A good urban planning solution with parking spaces in Merķeļa iela. The authors offer a prospective link for pedestrians from Raiņa bulvāris to Dzirnava iela, using a convenient pedestrian crossing and thoroughfares within the city blocks. A partly covered arcade meanders through the territory having a well-visible entrance from A.Kalniņa iela. The link between the streets is provided with a covered inner courtyard and a space below the building. Although climatic conditions are taken into account, this space will not be functional in summer. There are no courtyards planned opposite the courtyards/light wells on the neighbouring plots of land. A good and rational organisation of pedestrian and cyclist flows. The solution for the public open space is provided, but it is unconvincing as regards safety because the spaces are arranged in a complex composition, car parks are located in the courtyard, the delivery zone is not separated (it is open and visible).

The cultural and historical heritage, i.e. the circus arena and the courtyard buildings, are preserved and rebuilt. The functional and spatial layout of the building does not include all the spaces required in the Designing Programme. Various ways of transformation of the spectator halls and the stage are offered, including mechanisms for lifting and lowering the seats.

Commendable are solutions for the energy generated from alternative resources included in the project: photovoltaic panels on the façades of the “black box” building, a recovery system, use of rainwater for watering of plants, *Pavegen* tiles for surfaces which allow generating electricity from footsteps, re-used bricks from the demolished buildings.

10.2.12. Entry with the motto IIII1111

ARCHITECTURAL SOLUTION IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT OF THE RHC

The architectural idiom and identity are strong and suit well to the new Riga Circus. The authors of this proposal have carried out extensive research of historical materials, intending to renovate the historic façade of the circus building in Merķeļa iela, bringing it close to the initial design by J.F. Baumanis (including the restored doors, metal stairs), and to restore the historical substance – the circus arena, the dome, the former horse stables, the elephant house, the bricks of the historic wall. The historic

buildings are rebuilt to accommodate new functions. A new roof structure is planned above the existing arena dome; the historic lantern of the dome is restored. The preservation of cultural heritage has been addressed seriously and carefully, trying to conserve the historical substance as much as possible. The preserved historical values and the constructed new buildings make a very good proportion.

A very potent conceptual and detailed solution for the overall image of the object. The façade towards Merķeļa iela at the street level is fully used for public functions. The architecture of the Riga Circus building is respected and supplemented creating an interesting and expressive image of “a circus settlement” – a tent – in A.Kalniņa iela. Thus, the site has acquired its identity which reflects the function, however, in practice all aspects of the exploitation of the new building might not be sufficiently taken into account. The “black box” hall in A.Kalniņa iela is extravagant, expressive, bold and clearly shows the presence of an unusual public function, which at the same time justifies certain deviations from the general requirements of the building regulations for respecting the context of the historic built-up environment since the building (a spire of a tent) exceeds the permitted height of the cornice (15 m) and does not fit within the space formed by a 45-degree angle. A discrepancy may not be apparent when the object is seen on the whole as authentically different from the image and functions of a traditional perimeter block. A tent-like roof configuration of the new “black box” hall in the structural and spatial solution is not really suitable for circus artists, the glass walls are not functional, the walls must be proper. The street front in A.Kalniņa iela is not fully used. In fact, the façade has no function and application (the staircase opening occupies almost the entire length of the façade).

Although the greatest value of the project is its individuality and the image of “a circus settlement”, it is also the problem of the project. Dimensions of the multifunctional hall, the glass wall towards the public open space and the façade in A.Kalniņa iela are disputable both – as regards the design and functionality. The exposed firewalls of the buildings facing A.Kalniņa iela are not a special added value of the project.

FUNCTIONS AND LAYOUT, ORGANISATION OF FLOWS, LANDSCAPING AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE TERRITORY

A good functional and spatial layout of the building providing all spaces listed in the Designing Programme. The newly created open square in A.Kalniņa iela, as a recess from the street line, continues to lead visitors deeper into the building complex. The location of the central entrance stairs in the middle of the square occupies a lot of space and restricts its functional diversity. A possibility to connect the “black box” hall with the square created in A.Kalniņa iela gives a special character to the public open space. The courtyard abounds in daily and festive functions, entrances and links to the indoor spaces. The historical textures and human scale are preserved; greenery and changeable functions are integrated. The spectator entrance with a change of levels (through the lowered level) to the “black box” hall is confusing and disputable, since there is no other public entrance with a lobby/box office area from the square or the street. Instead, spectators need to go to the basement (where cloakrooms are located) first and then go up to the hall again. The wide underground floor (-3.10 m and 4.80 m) is a technically complex and costly solution. Functionality of the new “black box” hall is disputable because the original roof and the structural solution of the ceiling at different heights may provide additional options for scenography, but it hampers the use of standard equipment during the performances.

A good organisation of pedestrian and cyclists flows in the territory of the competition object. Time-limited parking spaces are planned in A.Kalniņa iela, staff and disabled parking spaces and bicycle stands are planned in the territory. The public open space – a walk-through city block – is created

forming open courtyards of logical proportions with a pedestrian arcade. A link with the neighbouring city blocks and the Bergs Bazaar is optimal. However, the connection of the inner courtyard of the Riga Circus with Merķeļa iela is organised via 3 doors, crossing also the box-office zone, passing by a souvenir shop and an unlocked staircase to the basement. Such an arrangement suggests that the arcade will be open only during the working hours of the circus and may not be fully used by the general public. It is recommended to organise the entrance to the arcade so that it can function autonomously, 24 hours a day.

A location of residences is well selected, while the access is complicated and inconvenient through the café or the administrative zone of the circus. It is advisable to have a separate access to the residences, without a need to cross other rooms. Good solutions for the transformable arena and spectator seats. In the "black box" hall, too, the stage and spectator seats can be transformed. The conference and community centre is well planned in the middle of the courtyard, in the centre of the complex. The development stages of the object are well planned, and a possibility of the implementation of the project is carefully thought out. Good solutions for the identity of the interior and the exterior of the proposal.

Commendable is the research done as part of the project and energy efficiency solutions of the building complex for using renewable, environmentally friendly energy resources for the production of heat and/or electricity. It is nice to see a detailed project.

NOVELTY

The idea of "a circus settlement" is original and suits the identity of both – the historic and the modern circus. A professionally developed entry that completely differs from others.

JURY'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSIONER

A very powerful conceptual as well as detailed solution of the overall image of the object, the "black box" hall is designed as a tent. The rest of the complex is also unified by the architectural image which is associated with a circus settlement consisting of several structures that differ functionally but have the same architectural composition, materials, colour scheme and diversity of atmosphere.

It is recommended to carefully evaluate the proposals for preservation and use of the historical substance, which can be used in the development of the complex by synthesizing them with any other possible solutions.

10.2.13. Entry with the motto ROZA4000

ARCHITECTURAL SOLUTION IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT OF THE RHC

This proposal for a fundamental transformation of the historic city block of the Riga Circus is daring and even arrogant – both spatially and in terms of its colour scheme, which is positive, yet the project is not feasible considering a status of a historic monument of the object. The central part of the façade of the historic circus building is retained as a free-standing stage decoration. Behind it, there are stairs leading up to the roof. Such a solution would be more suitable for a revitalised former factory or a new city block.

The competition proposal has put the historic substance in a package of a red windowless frame that is graphically divided diagonally, with a walkable roof and an uncovered amphitheatre on it which is exposed to weather conditions. A stenographic approach is used to create an image of the circus, however, disregarding the current urban situation and the fact that the circus building as a significant architectural monument as specified in the Competition Brief. The bold architectural idea completely overwhelms all functional aspects of the building. As a result, the image of the circus is created, but it is

very aggressive. The project can be an autonomous and bright design work (after all, it is a circus!) in a neutral environment, however, such a colourfully and spatially overwhelming design is incongruous with the historic building of the Riga Circus and the streetscape of Merķeļa iela.

FUNCTIONS AND LAYOUT, ORGANISATION OF FLOWS, LANDSCAPING AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE TERRITORY

This solution proposes a layout for blocks of spaces required for the arena and school of the Riga Circus and the functioning of the “Black Box” hall. A unified visual image is acquired for both outdoor and indoor spaces. Circus performances and shows can be held on the roof where there is a space provided for the stage and stationary spectator stands. Plans and sections are shown as schematic drawings without details, dimensions and height marks. The distance of 4.3 m from the border to the planned windows appears not to be ensured.

The circulation of visitors and organisation of flows are addressed quite well, proposing three car parks and seven bicycle stands in the competition territory. The laid cobblestone pavement and some flower beds arranged on the roof are the only improvements of the territory.

Overall, this architectural solution creates an overall impression that the authors of this project will not be the actual cooperation partners for the further development of the project.

10.2.14. Entry with the motto AKRC2018

ARCHITECTURAL SOLUTION IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT OF THE RHC

A convincing and highly professional proposal with an adequate level of detailing based on profound research. The proposed architectural image of the circus complex, the atmosphere and the conceptual attitude to the designing task seem appropriate for the context of Riga’s historic centre and the new philosophy of the Riga Circus. In general, this project creates a very good impression; the level of its detailing and elaboration is highly appreciated. This compact solution with its human scale suits well for the existing building and this particular site. The project offers immediate comfort and a pleasant environment to circus visitors. Besides, the proposal is well-developed, with beautiful, neat and understandable drawings employing an appropriate colour scheme and possessing an adequate level of detailing (even showing the original doors and handrails), which look like elaborate drawings of details rather than sketches! The city block is treated as a complex urban environment respecting the historic wing and façade in Merķeļa iela and interpreting very creatively the street space in the solution for the building in A.Kalniņa iela.

A conceptually strong proposal encompassing a broader context of the urban environment with an aim to make it more people- and user-friendly and make the circus program accessible to a wider public. The proposed solutions comply with sustainable urban planning principles. It is a good idea to show periodically the circus program outside the circus building in Vērmāne Garden.

The authors of the proposal have carried out serious research and analysis, which is very important for creating a development vision for this territory. A good solution for the renovation of the historic building which intends to preserve as many elements of the old substance as possible and integrate them into the new structures. The authors have shown their sustainable attitude trying to use the existing monumental structures as much as possible, transforming and/or integrating them into the new layout, namely, intending to integrate the balcony built in 1888 and the 2nd floor added to the façade in Merķeļa iela in the 1950s into the new building. It is planned to transform some of the windows (turning some of them into doors and some into windows reaching the floor), to demolish the walls of the existing arena, the spectator amphitheatre and the balconies, lowering the new

amphitheatre to the level of the basement floor. Walls of extensions to the circus building will be made of the same bricks. On the ground floor in A.Kalniņa iela above the brick wall there will be a transparent glass structure housing the “black box” foyer. The new building has an image of a public building and a circus which blends perfectly well into the surrounding urban environment, taking into account the established vantage points and views. The concept is very carefully and meticulously elaborated, combining the image of the traditional and the new (an unusual object) to justify concerns about some eclecticism, even industrialism, present in the building facing A.Kalniņa iela. Though the massing of the building towards A.Kalniņa iela is not typical of Riga’s historic centre, the motif of glazing is exaggerated. Despite the fact that the façade in A.Kalniņa iela meets the requirements for building height set out in the Regulations on Building and Use (*TIAN*), the Jury had many questions and doubts in this regard – how this recessed structure made of glass and brick, which houses the foyer, will function. In the further development of the project, the façade towards A.Kalniņa iela should be justified and analysed considering the used materials and the massing of the building. Although the architectural reference is clear and corresponds to the historical context, this part of the building needs further analysis of the architectural vocabulary and architectural image. The extensive glazing of the building is disputable; however, in case of a publicly significant building with an unusual function deviations are allowed from the traditional principles of shape formation in the context of perimeter blocks. At the same time, creation of a perimeter block is not an ultimate aim in itself, since a deviation can sometimes produce unexpected (positive) results, like the façade in Merķeļa iela where the focus of perception changed thanks to the deviation and the street and the building appeared in a new light. A visually accentuated staircase element (high “black box” tower with no architectural style) and exposed firewalls of adjacent buildings are conspicuous in the new building facing A. Kalniņa iela. Only one visualisation is presented, including a small part of adjacent buildings. No visualisation shows a broader streetscape in views from both directions.

FUNCTIONS AND LAYOUT, ORGANISATION OF FLOWS, LANDSCAPING AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE TERRITORY

Serious research of the study area has been performed as part of this project. A possibility to bring the circus activities outside its territory – in parks and gardens (structures suitable for performances), in the city canal (floating structures) have been addressed and described, pedestrian crossings are planned in Kr.Barona iela and Raiņa bulvāris (street). Pedestrian arcades are connected with inner courtyards from Old Riga, Boulevard Circle up to Bergs Bazaar. The project establishes a convenient and logical public access to the city block integrating it into the structure of the Riga city centre. The solution provides potential connections with Bergs Bazaar and other surrounding areas, clearly distinguishing among pedestrian, cyclist and public transport flows, offering northern-southern and eastern-western connections, which will create the necessary links across Merķeļa iela and through A.Kalniņa iela. It may be a good idea to build a connecting pedestrian path/courtyard between Merķeļa and A.Kalniņa Streets and an imaginary continuation of the arcade in the direction of Bergs Bazaar and the canal greenery, however, additional research is required in order to prove that these new connections can be created. The offered conceptual solutions for pedestrian crossings with traffic-calming elements in Kr. Barona, A.Kalniņa and Merķeļa Streets not only improve the use of these streets from the point of view of pedestrians, but also accentuate the entrances to the new building of a cultural establishment and the distribution of flows. It is planned to establish a network of cycling routes along the streets surrounding the city block, a bicycle stand will be provided in the territory of the circus. Short-term parking spaces in A.Kalniņa iela for cars and vans, a parking place for disabled persons. A delivery system/access roads to lifts should be developed.

The existing infrastructure of the territory (horse stables, elephant house) has been very well used. The hierarchy and functions of the public open spaces within the city block are clear, as well as the visual

connection between the interior and public open spaces that are used rationally, gently removing excessive and less valuable elements, in order to improve the functionality of the public open space and the entire object. Attention has been paid to the preservation and creation of greenery along the streets and within the city block. A high level of detailing, abundance of textures and finishes on the ground-floor level and in the courtyard creates a human-scale environment. Attention has been paid to the issues of accessibility of the environment. Possibilities of using the circus courtyard (open-air theatre and film shows, performances, fashion shows, fresh food markets, festivals and other public events) have been described in detail.

Plans are detailed, but the provided spaces are very small, consequently, the provision of all necessary functions and areas will be a major problem. The organisation of flows is rational and logical, however, the connection of the new and old parts of the complex is doubtful – how flexible and transformable will be the arena, how the central node of the building with vertical and horizontal flows will work. Transformation options of the arena are not sufficient to ensure its use at full capacity, the third-floor balconies are not functional. The arena looks “too open” and exposed outward, therefore the street noise could penetrate inside. The open arena requires special acoustic solutions and noise abatement measures. The complete dismantling of the gallery could also negatively affect the use of the rest of the rooms. The organisation of spectator/visitor flows does not seem to be properly developed. It appears that only two options for transformation of seats are planned in the arena, which is not “the most versatile” proposal, and it means that the seating system needs to be “hidden” beneath the central stage, what is a difficult task in a multifunctional building. An explanation is also needed about the function of the many arena doors, which could cause additional problems as regards sound insulation and ticket control. It is recommended to prepare a scheme of user flows and accessibility of the publicly used part from Merķeļa iela which would be similar to an urban planning analysis. It should also be ascertained if restaurant premises on the side of A.Kalniņa iela will be attractive to potential lessees.

A good location of the “black box” hall in the competition territory: being withdrawn from A.Kalniņa iela, it does not prevail in the streetscape, however, circus experts doubt its (ideal) functionality. The “black box” hall is too small (it only has 240 seats instead of the required 350) and the performance area is also too small. The maintenance and management (cooling/heating) of the large glazed space containing a foyer in the new building must be assessed.

The proposed project solution provides only two training halls for the circus school and their size does not meet the requirements of the Designing Programme since the training halls are not sufficiently large/high for the intended use: it is advisable to increase the height of the training hall by relocating artists’ residencies to another part of the city block (e.g. at the arena, on the side of the public garden). The height of Level -1 floor is depressingly low at around 2.20 m.

The questions to be addressed:

- the chosen solutions for a street profile in Merķeļa iela in regard to public transport stops and bicycle paths are not safe. The bicycle path should go around the bus stop and the bus stop should be moved farther away from the pedestrian crossing;
- uncontrolled pedestrian crossings in Merķeļa iela across 3 and more lanes could be unsafe; ways should be found how to narrow the width of the carriageway to be crossed by arranging parking spaces and building a pedestrian island;
- a necessity of a separated bicycle path in A.Kalniņa iela because of low traffic flow and insignificance of the route.

NOVELTY

An innovative solution for the thermal insulation of the arena dome with a new shell allowing preserving the original structures as much as possible and contributing to the structural durability and safety of the object. Thus, it can also be adapted to modern light, sound and other technologies. An expressive and original proposal containing innovative functional solutions and architectural ideas.

SUSTAINABILITY

Attention has been paid to the use of local materials and the building materials and architectural details left over after the demolition of the buildings. The solution for the thermal insulation of the arena dome with a new shell is innovative. The shell allows preserving the original structures as much as possible and contributing to the structural durability and safety of the object. And it also allows it to be adapted to modern light, sound and other technologies. It should be assessed how appropriate is the glass structure of the new foyer and exhibition hall in the surrounding cityscape as regards its architecture and energy efficiency, while preserving the principle of stark contrast.

JURY'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSIONER

The copious material of historical research should be used and the principal solution for the public open space must be retained.

In general, the scale and the level of detailing of this project are highly appreciated, yet currently the proposal has three weaknesses that need to be addressed in the following stages of project development, namely:

- logistics in the arena and the dynamic/transformable seating system;
- the central node, a logistics analysis;
- a transparent foyer, location, size and details of functions.

The delivery zone (of props and stage materials) should be redesigned as a complex entrance node. The backstage and the largest rooms for storage of props should be placed closer to the arena and training rooms. There are no clear, good solutions for the lift and corridors, as well as for the access to the first floor.

It is an interesting idea how to interpret and use the historic materials on the side of A.Kalniņa iela, but the additions (windowless bands) to the side façades above the existing wing in Merķeļa iela and a continuous expanse of glass in the façade towards A. Kalniņa iela need to be reassessed.

10.2.15. Entry with the motto U2N856

ARCHITECTURAL SOLUTION IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT OF THE RHC

The modified façade details, i.e. the new entrance rising two-storeys high in Merķeļa iela which disrupts the symmetry of the historic façade, including towards Merķeļa iela (the accent of the entrance opening, the glass roof in the southern wing of the façade), create a controversy stylistically and in some ways do not even reflect the architectural vocabulary of the 21st century. The visualisation of the façade in Merķeļa iela shows an incongruous glazed structure to the right side of the dome above the 2nd floor (not intending to demolish the level added in the 1950s). A possibility to see the dome from the many interior spaces may actually not be the major attraction of the circus complex. The design of the public open space and the interior fails to provide a new high-quality contribution to the architectural values of the historic centre of Riga. The courtyard façade and the layout of the building do not correspond to the architectural image of the surrounding urban environment. The architectural solution of the new building, the scale and nature of the façade do not blend well into the streetscape of A.Kalniņa iela and do not reflect the circus identity. The overall architectural solution

creates an impression that the authors of this project will not be the actual cooperation partners for the further development of this project.

FUNCTIONS AND LAYOUT, ORGANISATION OF FLOWS, LANDSCAPING AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE TERRITORY

The pedestrian path crossing the city block has an interesting diagonal direction, yet it is placed mechanically within the general layout structure since it is organised in an orthogonal system. The pedestrian flow is not separated; it is leading through the rooms separated by doors. The proposal intends to preserve the historic circus building, the arena, the dome and to preserve and rebuild the former horse stables. Unfortunately, many spaces are useless or have no function, the functionality of the circus centre is not achieved, many rooms have no rational application. The layout of the historic arena has been changed by placing the stage in the corner. By extending the seating system of the "black box", the possibilities of use of training rooms have been limited.

The landscaping concept for the territory of the competition object is of medium quality. A temporary parking for vehicles in the street, a bicycle stand and charging of electric cars are provided in the territory. However, elevations and sections are schematic; the interior lacks a modern solution. Solutions for using environmentally-friendly, energy-intensive, local and regional building and finish materials, environmentally-friendly energy resources for the production of heat and/or electricity are of medium quality.

JURY'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSIONER

In comparison with other competition entries, this proposal cannot be used for the further development of the circus complex.

10.2.16. Entry with the motto LIDO1001

ARCHITECTURAL SOLUTION IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT OF THE RHC

A very interesting and brave proposal with attractive greenery for the roof area. If an urban area is seen as a sustainable ecosystem, then this particular project emphasises it in a pronounced way. Green and walkable roofs, a roof space that can be used in a variety of ways, and a special and scientifically justified approach to tending of plantations are definitely values of this proposal, rooted in the tradition of circus art. It is a good idea to return to the historic façade designed by J.F. Baumanis in Merķeļa iela and to preserve the historic dome, by renovating the openwork circular walkway of the upper part, and offering of an additional original solution – the "multi box" – as a reference to the historic circus caravans on several levels at the firewalls of the adjacent buildings, thus allowing diversifying circus performances. The upper-level greenery looks very appealing in the proposal but such a solution is too decadent in Riga's geographical location. The management costs of such additional areas, considering the current situation of the circus, would be too high, no matter how attractive such a new urban area would be to the residents and visitors of Riga.

The new building along A.Kalniņa iela is set within a perimeter block. The architectural image of the façade of the new building does not refer to the circus function and typologically as well the building does not correspond to the character of a public building. The long balconies, the proportion of windows and the façade division are not typical of the centre of Riga, although it is compensated for/improved by the greenery. The height of the cornice of the new building corresponds to the permitted 15 m and the part of the building above the main cornice fits within the space formed by a 45-degree angle.

Among the interesting ideas are the inclusion of the street space of Merķeļa iela into the planning and greenery scheme of the Riga Circus, a convenient pedestrian crossing opposite the building, stairs leading from the pavement to the roof terraces and “multi box” elements at the firewalls. The metal stairs on the façade in Merķeļa iela are retained and extended to allow people to access the circus roof. The creation of green, extensively planted roofs gives some extra space, and also raises doubts about their functionality in Latvia’s weather conditions and about their maintenance costs.

FUNCTIONS AND LAYOUT, ORGANISATION OF FLOWS, LANDSCAPING AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE TERRITORY

The project proposes to transform the structure of Merķeļa and A. Kalniņa Streets by reducing the traffic speed, creating new pedestrian crossings, widening green belts (establishing the so-called “green islands”) along the streets, planting new trees and creating a new public garden next to the main entrance to the circus building. A very impressive, publicly accessible, well-developed and landscaped public open space on different levels of roof planes and even at the firewalls of the neighbouring properties, including some container-type structures. A well developed landscaping and improvement concept for the “green” territory, proposing a pedestrian arcade that leads through the building and the courtyard, creating links in a wider urban context and connecting the circus quarter with Bergs Bazaar and Boulevard Circle. There are parking spaces for staff and a bicycle stand planned in the territory, and short-stay parking spaces in the street.

The concept of the project is original and blends well into the surrounding cityscape, offering pedestrians an entirely new space that could become an attractive location in the city. The authors of the proposal have carried out an in-depth research of the topic and history of the Riga Circus, preserving values of its cultural heritage and adapting them to its new function. Although the functional solution for the Riga Circus complex is well elaborated and offers transformable stages and spectator seats along with many broad underground spaces, it is a technically complex and expensive solution. However, there is no convenient access to the environment for all proposed spaces, especially to the walkable roof planes and containers located at the firewalls. In comparison with the rest of the project, the solution for courtyard façades is not convincing. The graphical presentation of the ideas is very ambitious, and the colours used are slightly overwhelming, though the visualisations are abundant.

NOVELTY

The authentic uniqueness of the site in the context of the RHC is highlighted in a modern way with attractive sustainable solutions: rain forests in Merķeļa iela, rainwater management possibilities, traffic calming measures, greenery in order to create more environmentally friendly conditions for pedestrians and thus emphasize their presence in the vicinity of a unique cultural establishment. The abundance of innovative ideas, especially as regards the publicly accessible part of the complex and the greenery on the roof planes, produces some exaggeration that may create a conflict with the actual functions of the object itself and the resources required for its management.

JURY’S RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSIONER

The project is especially noteworthy due to the produced circus visual identity/ style with a flag and the created environmental object. It is recommended to give a special award for the particularly “green” concept of intensive roofs.

10.2.17. Entry with the motto MA6111EC

ARCHITECTURAL SOLUTION IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT OF THE RHC

It is a good idea to demolish the second floor added to the historic façade of the Riga Circus in the 1950s and restore it to the original plans by architect J.F. Baumanis. The façade facing A.Kalniņa iela has an original design, which has nothing to do with the identity of the circus. The scale and architectural image of the building are incongruous with the streetscape and contradict the existing regulations and urban construction traditions in the RHC. The street façade in A.Kalniņa iela exceeds the height of 15 m of the main cornice, but the part of the building above the main cornice does not fit within a relative space created by a 45-degree angle. In some areas the requirement to arrange a courtyard opposite a courtyard of the neighbouring plot of land is not complied with.

FUNCTIONS AND LAYOUT, ORGANISATION OF FLOWS, LANDSCAPING AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE TERRITORY

The functionality is ensured by linking Merķeļa and A.Kalniņa Streets, though the pedestrian arcade may be built only through the buildings. The arcades of the inner courtyard bear references to the historical patina, which has been achieved through the use of glass texture on metal structures. The authors of the project preserve the cultural heritage of the circus, by restoring the circus arena and the historic building, transforming the former horse stables and creating a new underground floor under the arena – a space underneath the stage – in order to increase the possibilities for transformation, storage of equipment and rows of chairs from the stands, which is a very interesting but technically complicated and costly solution. The main groups of rooms and their functional links are provided in the project, but there is no optimal solution for visitor circulation, e.g. in order to get to the arena, visitors need to go through the “black box” hall. The solution for the training halls is impractical and does not address the circus functions and needs. A public open space under the building facing A.Kalniņa iela is disputable, and the delivery to both halls may cause problems. It is intended to have bicycle stands in the competition territory, but the organisation of pedestrian and cyclist flows is not optimal. There are no parking spaces planned in the territory.

JURY'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSIONER

The solution for the vertical stage on some of the large interior wall planes of the complex offered by the authors of the project may be taken into account in the prospective development of the Riga Circus complex, nevertheless, in comparison with other competition entries, this proposal cannot be used for further development of the project.

10.2.18. Entry with the motto KBMM3807

ARCHITECTURAL SOLUTION IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT OF THE RHC

The competition proposal is developed in detail on ten graphical pages. The project respects the historical substance and urban context: the façade of the main building in Merķeļa iela is restored (including windows and doors), while the building proposed in A.Kalniņa iela does not comply with the existing regulation and gives an impression of a building of a different type (an office or residential building), what may partly be due to the location of residences (a hotel for artists) in the section along A.Kalniņa iela. The façade of the new building exceeds the height permitted in the Building Regulations (*RVC AZ TIAN*) (the width of a street between street lines), and the part above 15 m does not fit within the space formed by a 45-degree angle. The image of the façade in A.Kalniņa iela does not correspond to the circus identity and lacks the original features of contemporary architecture.

FUNCTIONS AND LAYOUT, ORGANISATION OF FLOWS, LANDSCAPING AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE TERRITORY

The authors of the project have analysed and studied the historic circus building and propose to preserve and restore it along with the arena, the former horse stables and the balcony of the arena designed by architect J.F. Baumanis. The blocks of premises and their distribution correspond to the Designing Programme of the competition, but their functionality raises a number of questions, since the basic functions of the circus complex are not provided. The pedestrian flow connecting Merķeļa and A.Kalniņa Streets is organised along the southern border of the plot of land, the spatial solution towards A.Kalniņa iela is strictly linear, creating a kind of tunnel within the city block which fails to provide an optimal organisation of pedestrian and cyclist flows in the territory of the competition object. It is intended to arrange a bicycle stand for 30 bicycles and one car park in the competition territory.

Much attention has been paid to the overall colour scheme and graphic design: an identical view from above of the historic building has been shown five times, and it is seen also in the spatial view; the façade in A.Kalniņa iela is depicted in an elevation drawing and in a close-up detail view from three different angles. Both views of the public open space of the inner courtyard show the same information.

JURY'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSIONER

The architectural solutions of this proposal imply that the authors of this project, in comparison with other competition entries, do not get the Jury recommendation for the further development of this project.

10.2.19. Entry with the motto RING8881

ARCHITECTURAL SOLUTION IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT OF THE RHC

The project proposal is prepared on eight graphical pages. An analysis of the surrounding urban environment and the city block has been performed and it underlies the proposed solutions. The historic façade in Merķeļa iela has been restored (although the section shows that it is not planned to demolish the 2nd floor above the historic building added in the 1950s) and supplemented with a glazed arched terrace around the central dome. The open viewing platform around the dome, which can also be used as an outdoor terrace of the restaurant and does not significantly affect the perception of the cultural heritage values of the circus, is a new vantage point overlooking the circus territory and the surrounding cityscape. A good design of details.

The façade in A.Kalniņa iela does not blend within the streetscape due to its exceeded height and scale, it does not comply with the legal regulation, i.e. the height of the main cornice of 15m (the width of a street between street lines) is exceeded and the part of the building above the main cornice does not fit within a relative space formed by a 45-degree angle. The composition and details of the façade contrast the surrounding streetscape and does not reflect the identity of the circus. The architectural image of the façade and the chosen colour scheme do not originate from the tradition or interpretation of the 21st century's trends. A stylistic concept should be clearer in the choice of the façade elements in A.Kalniņa iela and in the design of the elements of the public open space.

FUNCTIONS AND LAYOUT, ORGANISATION OF FLOWS, LANDSCAPING AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE TERRITORY

The spatial and functional link is ensured for pedestrians between Merķeļa and A.Kalniņa Streets (incl. with gates that can be locked at night), the proportion of courtyards and connecting passages is acceptable. The organisation of pedestrian and cyclist flows, including car parks, in the territory of the competition object is optimal. The authors of the project intend to preserve and renovate objects of cultural heritage value – the arena and the horse stable, by restoring the existing dome and balconies. The new structural solutions make it possible to use of the roof of the historic building. A good location of the “black box” hall at the back of the competition territory; however, the exposed part of the structure at A.Kalniņa iela exceeds the permitted height. The removable wall of the “black box” hall may also contribute to the staging of open-air performances.

The proposed functional solution of the building is not entirely appropriate for the circus needs, the delivery zone between both halls can cause problems, the circulation of visitors is not optimal. The improvement and landscaping concept in three courtyards of the competition object and on roof terraces is described in the explanatory note.

JURY'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSIONER

In comparison with other competition entries, this proposal cannot be used for the further development of the circus complex.

10.2.20. Entry with the motto NSRD2018

ARCHITECTURAL SOLUTION IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT OF THE RHC

The created identity is appropriate for the new Riga Circus and the architectural vocabulary of the proposal is strong. The project is convincing as regards its individuality and design: a democratic, open and moderately industrial, well organised and balanced proposal of a human scale. Among the positive qualities are its compact size, the level of detailing and openness of the building, displaying one side of the training hall in an innovative way towards the spectator seats located in the public open space.

Both the historic building in Merķeļa iela and the new building in A.Kalniņa iela have an attractive image of the Riga Circus. The façade facing Merķeļa iela is reborn and elegantly restored in its original form with an enlarged gallery at the main entrance. Spaces containing public functions are exposed in the façade towards Merķeļa iela at the pavement level. The double-height of the information centre and the bar makes them appear imposing and cosmopolitan. The attention paid to the details, e.g. the light show in Merķeļa iela, is highly appreciated. Seen from Merķeļa iela, the “black box” appears like a backstage curtain for the dome of the circus arena without overwhelming it with its scale. The arcade and courtyards have human scale with the presence of historic textures; a balanced proportion of public open spaces, greenery and landscape elements.

The new building in A.Kalniņa iela has an image of a modern circus. The building in A.Kalniņa iela with its modern design forms a visual image that is too conspicuous in the streetscape due to the chosen shape, material and colour combination. However, the impression created by the composition of this complex should not be shunned, since some additional elaboration of details may turn this building into an example of contemporary architecture with the quality characteristic of Swiss architecture. Both the red flights of stairs and black and gray hues of the other drawings look good. There is a certain style, an appropriate level of technical comfort, and the project proposal makes one confident that its development will continue. A multi-layered façade composition in A.Kalniņa iela with a transparent structure and outdoor spectator seats (which can be reached via “the urban explorers’

footbridge"/ramp) looks good, making the building complex appear bright and inviting, and referring to the circus performances, it fits well into the urban environment. The façade towards A.Kalniņa iela has been fully used exposing office spaces at the street level.

The opening of the public open space of the arcade towards A. Kalniņa iela is inviting and clearly shows a gateway leading further inside the city block. This effect is emphasised by the building of the circus school retracted towards Marijas iela, which is designed as a part of a perimeter block with a gap – one exposed firewall is seen. The link between “the urban explorers’ footbridge”, the public open space and the training hall is like an intriguing addition of the complex to a well-functioning solution within a city block. The new building in A.Kalniņa iela exceeds the permitted height of 15 m of the cornice (the width of a street between street lines), the part of the building above 15 m does not fit within a relative space formed by a 45-degree angle. It practically cannot be changed without substantially altering the solutions, or an exception to the Building Regulations may apply to the proposal. At the competition project stage, the façade in A.Kalniņa iela with its open structure and an image of “an art factory” is a moderate challenge to the responsible institutions and the accepted practice.

An interesting spatial solution with footbridges, ramps and open-air spectator seats providing additional views and options for alternative types of uses like different shows and unconventional performances. However, the good functional solution affects the arrangement of buildings along A.Kalniņa iela.

FUNCTIONS AND LAYOUT, ORGANISATION OF FLOWS, LANDSCAPING AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE TERRITORY

It is proposed to create an arcade running through the inner city block up to Bergs Bazaar and, making excellent use of the existing infrastructure, to attract the cultural activities of the surrounding area to the pedestrian path. A walk-through city block providing a convenient access without a detailed analysis of prospective development within the overall structure of Riga’s centre, while clearly defining the spatial structure of the arcade and inner courtyards and the organisation of flows. The preserved historic building in A.Kalniņa iela with an accentuated entrance to the circus courtyard gives an additional human scale to the arcade. A wonderful symmetric arrangement around the central axis of the arena is achieved, making the building expressive and transparent from A. Kalniņa iela. A system of open stairs makes this project stand out with its individuality, however, there are some slight exaggerations and lack of functionality which may be rectified during the further development of the project. It is planned to have a bicycle stand in the territory of the Riga Circus, a short-term parking spaces in A.Kalniņa iela and a parking place for disabled persons at the entrance.

The project solution has a clear functional and visual link between the public open space and the circus interior spaces, as well as a good fusion of the historical substance and the modern elements. The authentic metal structure of the dome is exposed and a new, hidden double roof structure of the dome is planned. The arena dome has an attractive background: the unconventional façade of the new “black box” hall sets off the historic dome and creates a new urban landmark at the back of the plot of land, which could be appreciated from a larger distance.

A very good, professionally developed proposal which takes into account the multifunctional use of the circus in future (according to the circus experts, it has the best functional layout) with very good functional solutions for the arena, the “black box” hall, offering optimal transformation of halls and spectator seats in the arena, and for the residences. Thanks to such logical solutions as a wide passage through the middle part of the building for the purposes of internal logistics, other elements, e.g. the delivery area, are extremely well designed. The proposal has a well-designed backstage area where dressing rooms/offices, training rooms/ classrooms are located which meet all requirements, as

regards the required ceiling height and the planned types of uses. It is very good that the backstage area is close to the arena, the seating system looks good (and reasonable) in both buildings. A good solution for a restaurant that is located in a separate zone, away from other visitor flows. Both buildings have a good size, the number of functions is optimal (a good seating system, organisation of flows in the backstage area, organisation of flows of visitors and users of the buildings, etc.). The groups of the main rooms and buildings are logically connected; the historical substance (stables, elephant house) is preserved as much as possible in the layout structure. As regards the composition, the arrangement of residences is logical (it is a good solution to raise the ceiling in the small rooms), but they do not really correspond to the character of the streetscape of A.Kalniņa iela.

The solution for accessibility of the environment has a strong architectural image, but it is also self-centred because it does not fully provide a convenient access to the small courtyard (a café) (a path across the entire building with large differences in height). Special “urban explorers’ footbridges” are planned in the competition territory. Made as truss pedestrian bridges, they rise over the roofs of the buildings, providing an unforgettable experience and excellent views across the circus buildings and the city in general. It is questionable if “urban explorers’ footbridges” could be used in the winter season and the issues of environmental accessibility of the upper levels should also be addressed.

NOVELTY

A lot of innovative ideas and spatial diversity in different places of the object and the plot of land. An original and new project functionally and architecturally.

SUSTAINABILITY

Commendable is the research performed as part of the project elaboration and energy efficiency solutions for the building complex, how to use environmentally friendly, energy-intensive, local and regional building and finish materials. A very good project as regards the circus functions and identity.

JURY’S RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSIONER

This proposal contains many great ideas that need to be developed in the next stage.

Some things that need to be clarified with the architects:

- access to the delivery area and the lift: it needs to be clarified if it can reach all necessary places/rooms to move the props/stage materials, including up to the training halls;
- visitor access to the little garden should be restricted: it would be better if they could only look at it, avoiding organising visitor flows to it (no exit is provided except when walking through the restaurant);
- the main entrance (stairs and lifts) in the “black box” hall and in the arena may need to be changed: the entrance could be organised from the front (instead of the back of the glass building) to enjoy views across the roof and the city (reflecting the external red path);
- administration offices could be moved to commonly used spaces inside the building, and this space could be used by artists to warm up and prepare;
- the storage room located next to the small garden should be larger so that a bigger part of the seating system could be stored in it;
- is it possible to make the red stairs less emphasised;
- should people be encouraged to walk up to the roof, an additional analysis of the symmetry and transparency of the composition will be required;
- the substantial violation of the Building Regulations should be justified and the impression of the industrial image of the new building in A.Kalniņa iela should be reduced.